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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 COME-00 /072 W
----------111750 301137Z /23
R 281700Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8541
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
UFHYK/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT 1898

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 4207

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, XY
SUBJECT: ECOWAS SUMMIT MEETING

REF: STATE 105766

1. PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET'S CHEF DE PROTOCOL TOLD CHARGE HOUPHOUET WAS VERY PLEASED WITH SUMMIT AND ITS RESULTS. MEDIA COVERAGE, WHICH ACCURATELY REFLECTS OFFICIAL VIEWS, HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE AND POSITIVE. WHILE NOT
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IGNORING ECONOMIC ASPECTS AND RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT, IVORIAN MEDIA HAVE CLEARLY PLACED EMPHASIS ON THE NON-AGGRESSION PROTOCOL, IVORIAN DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE TOLD EMBASSY DATT, HOWEVER, THAT THE NON-AGGRESSION PROTOCOL WAS A PURELY POLITICAL AGREEMENT WITHOUT MILITARY COMMITMENTS OR MUTUAL DEFENSE ASPECTS INVOLVED. HE ALSO SAID NON-AGGRESSION PROTOCOL IN ECOWAS WAS A

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VERY DIFFERENT THING FROM THE NON-AGGRESSION PACT IN THE CEAO.

2. WITH RESPECT TO FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS AND GOODS, MFA OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT BENIN'S OPPOSITION PREVENTED A GENUINE AGREEMENT. THUS, THE RESOLUTION IN QUESTION STATES THAT THE MEMBER STATES AGREED "IN PRINCIPLE" BUT THAT A FINAL ACCORD WAS LEFT TO THE NEXT SUMMIT MEETING. BENIN OPPOSES THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS ON THE GROUND IT WOULD CONSTITUTE A POTENTIAL THREAT TO ITS SECURITY. THE NON-AGGRESSION PROTOCOL APPARENTLY DID NOT ALLAY BENIN'S FEARS. ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL, EVERYONE ELSE WAS PREPARED TO AGREE TO THE FREE MOFEMENT OF PERSONS AND GOODS, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING GUINEA. MFA NOTES THAT ECOWAS POSITION ON FREE MO,EMENT WAS ONE KEY TO RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GUINEA AND SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST. BY CITING ECOWAS POSITION, SEKOU TOURE COULD DROP HIS DEMAND FOR RETURN OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION WITHOUT LOSS OF FACE.

3. EMBASSY OFFICERS OBTAINED COPY OF RESOLUTION ON FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS AND GOODS, REFERRED TO PARA 2 ABOVE. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

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QUOTE:

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CHIEFS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF ECOWAS IN THE COURSE OF ITS MEETINGS HELD IN LAGOS APRIL 21 AND 22, 1978;

CONSIDERING THAT ARTICLE 27 UNDER THE TERMS OF WHICH NATIONALS OF MEMBER NATIONS ARE CONSIDERED AS CITIZENS OF THE COMMUNITY;

HAVING AGREED THAT A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON FREE CIRCULATION OF PERSONS AND GOODS IS A PREREQUISITE IN THE EXISTENCE OF A VIABLE COMMUNITY, DECIDES;

1) TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON THE FREE CIRCULATION OF PERSONS AND GOODS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COMMUNITY;

2) ASKS THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO PREPARE AND TO SUBMIT AT THE NEXT SUMMIT OF ECOWAS A DRAFT MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON THE FREE CIRCULATION OF PERSONS WITH A VIEW TOWARD ELIMINATING ALL OBSTACLES TO THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND OF RESIDENCE OF CITIZENS OF MEMBER STATES AND TO TRANSLATE INTO REALITY THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY.
END QUOTE.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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